

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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P 062127Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3855

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CARACAS 8204

FOR USIA/ILA

FOR ARA - AMBASSADOR VAKY FROM CHARGE'

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EGEN, ENRG, ETRD, PE

SUBJ: ARRIVAL SCENARIO FOR AMBASSADOR VAKY

1. FOLLOWING IS SCENARIO FOR ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR VAKY AT MAIQUETIA AIRPORT AND SUGGESTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

2. OFFICIAL GOV AND EMBASSY WELCOMING PARTY WILL BE AT THE FOOT OF THE PLANE RAMP. IT IS PROBABLE THAT A PROTOCOL REPRESENTATIVE

WILL BOARD PLANE AND ESCORT AMBASSADOR DOWN RAMP. AFTER GREETING, AMBASSADOR WILL BE ESCORTED TO AREA JUST INSIDE FRONT DOOR OF ARRIVAL TERMINAL AREA OF TERMINAL BUILDING WHERE MICROPHONES FOR RADIO AND TV WILL BE IN PLACE FOR Q&A SESSION. OFFICIAL PARTY WILL EXIT NEARBY SIDE DOOR OF MAIN TERMINAL BUILDING WHERE VEHICLES WILL BE PARKED TO TRANSPORT THE AMBASSADOR AND OFFICIAL PARTY TO THE RESIDENCE.

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3. SUGGESTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOLLOW GROUPED BY SUBJECT:

(A) US-VENEZUELAN RELATIONS -

(1) GSP EXCLUSION -

Q. SENATOR BENTSEN RECENTLY INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO ELIMINATE THE AUTOMATIC EXCLUSION OF VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR FROM THE BENEFITS OF GSP. WE HAVE HAD MUCH RHETORIC ABOUT CHANGING THE LAW, BUT NOTHING HAS HAPPENED TO DATE. WHAT IS BEING DONE BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO RECTIFY THIS SITUATION?

A. FIRST, SECRETARY KISSINGER TOLD THE OAS MEETING IN SANTIAGO THAT MY GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE ECONOMIC CONCERNS OF LATIN AMERICA IN EVERY AREA IN WHICH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH POSSESSES THE POWER OF DISCRETIONARY DECISION. HE ALSO PLEDGED THAT WE WILL PUT FORTH EVERY EFFORT TO AMEND THE TRA TO ELIMINATE THE AUTOMATIC EXCLUSION OF VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR FROM THE GSP. SENATOR BENTSEN HAS OFFERED, AS YOU NOTE, SUCH LEGISLATION IN THE SENATE AND I WOULD HOPE THAT THIS OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION COULD BE PASSED ASAP.

(2) NIEHOUS CASE -

Q. IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SATISFIED WITH THE HANDLING OF THE NIEHOUS CASE BY THE GOV? WHAT INFORMATION DOES THE USG HAVE ABOUT POSSIBLE PAYMENT OF RANSOM OUTSIDE OF VENEZUELA?

A. WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THE GOV IS TAKING ALL APPROPRIATE STEPS TO RESOLVE THE CASE. QUESTIONS REGARDING SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE CASE ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOV AND SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO IT.

(3) US PETROLEUM STOCKPILING SCHEME -

Q. HOW WILL VENEZUELA BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED UNITED STATES PETROLEUM STOCKPILE?

A. VENEZUELA'S LONG-STANDING POSITION AS A KEY PETROLEUM EXPORTER TO THE UNITED STATES WOULD OBVIOUSLY MAKE IT ONE OF THE COUNTRIES TO BE CONSIDERED SHOULD SUCH A PROPOSAL BE IMPLEMENTED.

(4) RECENT INCREASE IN MIDDLE EAST PETROLEUM IMPORTS TO U.S. -

Q. RECENTLY, THE UNITED STATES IMPORTED AN INCREASING PERCENTAGE
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OF PETROLEUM FROM THE MIDDLE EAST THAN HERETOFORE. DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE U.S. IS LOSING INTEREST IN VENEZUELAN OIL?

A. NO. OBVIOUSLY, SPECIFIC PURCHASES OF OIL DEPEND ON MARKET FACTORS, INCLUDING THE TYPE OF OIL AND THE PRICE. U.S. COMPANIES PURCHASE WHEN AND WHERE IT IS MOST ECONOMIC TO DO SO.

(5) COLOMBIA/VENEZUELA BORDER DISPUTE -

Q. YOU HAVE JUST SERVED AS U.S. AMBASSADOR IN BOGOTA AND ARE THEREFORE WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE LONG-STANDING BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA. WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THIS QUESTION OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO VENEZUELA?

A. IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR ME TO COMMENT ON YOUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH COLOMBIA.

(6) RESTRICTIONS OF PRESS FREEDOM-UNESCO MEETING IN SAN JOSE
Q. CURRENTLY THE UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATION POLICIES IN LATIN AMERICA IS MEETING IN SAN JOSE. IT MAY WELL RECOMMEND SANCTIONING CONTROL OVER INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS. DOES YOUR GOVERNMENT AGREE WITH SUCH SACTIONS?

A. THE UNITED STATES FULLY SUBSCRIBES TO THE PRINCIPLES OF FREE COMMUNICATIONS AND BELIEVES THAT THESE PRINCIPLES ARE IN FACT A CORNERSTONE FOR THE EFFECTIVE EXISTANCE OF A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT THE UNESCO GOVERNING BOARD DECIDED NOT TO PERMIT THE IAPA TO ATTEND THIS CONFERENCE. WHILE WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE CONCERN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE ABOUT THE KINDS OF COMMUNICATION THEY RECEIVE, THE BEST HOPE FOR FRUITFUL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IS THROUGH THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION, NOT ITS RESTRICTION. (THIS ISSUE MAY BE TOPICAL GIVEN THE JULY 12-21 DATES OF THE CONFERENCE.)

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3856

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CARACAS 8204

(B) U-LA RELATIONS -

(1) REAGAN'S OPPOSITION TO CANAL NEGOTIATIONS -

Q. GOVERNOR REAGAN'S OPPOSITION TO THE UNITED STATES UNDERTAKING ANY CHANGE IN THE STATUS OF THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE HAS BECOME A HIGHLY PARTISAN ISSUE IN THE U.S. ELECTION CAMPAIGN, AND, APPARENTLY, MANY AMERICANS SUPPORT HIS VIEW. DO YOU THINK THAT PROSPECTS FOR AN AMICABLE SETTLEMENT HAVE BEEN JEOPARDIZED BY THESE DEVELOPMENTS?

A. BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS TO FIND AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO THE CANAL ISSUE. I HAVE GREAT HOPES THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WHICH PROTECTS THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENTS.

(2) HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE -

Q. HOW CAN THE UNITED STATES SQUARE ITS CRITICISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CHILE WITH A POLICY OF INFANCIAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT TO THAT SAME REGIME?

A. SECRETARY KISSINGER, DURING THE OAS MEETING IN SANTIAGO IN CONFIDENTIAL

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JUNE, NOTED THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AS ASSESSED BY THE OAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION "...HAS IMPAIRED OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHILE AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE CLOSE AND ALL FRIENDS OF CHILE HOPE THAT OBSTACLES RAISED BY CONDITIONS ALLEGED IN THE REPORT WILL SOON BE REMOVED." I SHOULD ADD THAT THE COMMISSION'S REPORT ALSO NOTED THAT THE INFRINGEMENT OF CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IN CHILE HAS UNDERGONE A REDUCTION, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONTINUE TO OCCUR. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE ALSO CONVINCED THAT PUBLIC ATTENTION SHOULD NOT FOCUS EXCLUSIVELY ON ONE COUNTRY TO THE EXCLUSION OF OTHERS NOR DO WE BELIEVE THAT THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS SERVED WHEN SPECIFIC GROUPS SINGLE OUT ONLY SPECIAL COUNTRIES WITH WHOSE POLITICAL VIEW THEY DISAGREE. IN REGARD TO AID, CONCERN IS ALSO EVIDENT THROUGHOUT OUR GOVERNMENT SO THAT IN THE CASE OF CHILE, THE CONGRESS HAS ENACTED UNUSUAL LEGISLATION WHICH PLACES CLEAR LIMITS ON UNITED STATES MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO THAT COUNTRY.

(3) SHLAUDEMAN APPOINTMENT -

Q. THE NOMINATION OF AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMAN AS U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS WAS SUBJECT TO CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM AND HELD UP FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN THE SENATE. WOULD YOU CARE TO COMMENT?

A. ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN'S NOMINATION WAS PASSED OVERWHEMINGLY BY THE SENATE, AN ACTION THAT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. BOTH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER CHOSE SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN BECAUSE OF THEIR BELIEF THAT HE IS EMINENTLY QUALIFIED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS OF FOREIGN POLICY IN THE HEMISPHERE.

(4) CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION -

Q. CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA HAS INCREASED CONCERN THAT THE CUBANS MAY TRY THE SAME THING CLOSER TO HOME. WHAT ACTION IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PREPARED TO TAKE IN SUCH AN EVENTUALITY?

A. THE UNITED STATES WOULD VIEW WITH EXTREME GRAVITY ANY FURTHER MILITARY INTERVENTION BY CUBA OR ANY OTHER POWER IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER STATE, IN THIS CONTINENT OR ELSEWHERE.

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(C) U.S. DOMESTIC POLITICS -

Q. HAVING JUST ARRIVED FROM WASHINGTON, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT FORD WILL BE NOMINATED NEXT MONTH, AND, IF SO, WILL HE BE ELECTED?

A. IT IS, OF COURSE, THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DELEGATES AT THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION TO CHOOSE THEIR PARTY'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. AS TO THE OUTCOME OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER, THAT IS, OF COURSE, FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO DECIDE.

4. QUESTIONS MAY ALSO BE RAISED CONCERNING YOUR PREVIOUS DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN LATIN AMERICA, YOUR PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCE WITH VENEZUELA AND QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SIZE AND TRAVEL OF YOUR FAMILY.
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